

The following SPEECH being spoke
off hand upon the Debates in the *House of Commons*, you
cannot expect in it the Exactness of *Roman Eloquence*;
but you have the freedom, and bravery of the *Old Roman*,
and true *English Spirit*, zealous for the good of their
Country, and bold in all its Dangers. And if other Cor-
porations and Shires would take the like Care as *Bristol*,
they might be as happy in the Choice of their Represen-
tatives; and then, and never till then, may we hope to see
poor England become *Old England* again, *Rich and Happy*
at home, *Glorious and Renowned* abroad. Towards which,
this worthy *Patriot* has set a Noble Example; and that
it may Inspire and Incourage others, and prompt and
enable the Country to distinguish such from *Pensioners*,
and wretched Betrayers of their Country and Posterity,
is the design of making this Publick, from a Copy which
I procured from a *Member of the House of Commons*, who
took it in Short Hand, as it was spoke.

Mr. Speaker,

I have heard of a Ship in a Violent Storm, in danger of Perish-
ing every Moment; [It was not such a *Sham Storm* as we were
lately entertained with in the *Gazette*, which deceives the Peo-
ple, that many Ships going for *France*, Laden with Corn, were
Cast away, tho' those Ships and many more are since safely Arrived
in *France*; But it was such a real Storm as on the 7th. of the last
Month, Destroyed on the Coast of *Cornwall* upwards of 70 Sail of
our *English Ships*, most of which were Laden with Corn, and several
sorts of Provisions, for the use of our *Dutch Allies*, to enable them to
live Cheap, by making the same Dear at Home, perhaps some was
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for the Support of our half Starv'd and Unpaid *English* Soldiers now in *Flanders*; when Perished likewise more than 700 Sailors, who have left Thousands of Widows, Children, and poor Relations to Curse our Conduct at Sea, the cause of this Calamity: In such a Dreadful Storm it was that the foresaid Ship was in] when the good Commander seeing the Danger, and apprehending Death, desired his Crew to Assist with Resolution, and Preserve themselves and the Ship, which the Sailors refusing to do, he retired to his Cabin, humbled himself in Prayer, and Implored the Powers that alone can save in time of need. That tho' the Ship and the Company might be justly Swallowed up, for the Disobedience of the Sailors, yet that he and his Cabin might suffer no Damage.

Sir, I cannot, as that good Commander did, be so vain as to hope that either my self, or the place for which I serve, can be preserved from the General Inundation, which this Bill we are now debating lets in on the Liberties of my Native Country and Country Men; and therefore be unconcerned for the good of *England*, provided *Bristol* were safe: To hope for and expect Happiness in Life, when all Mankind but my self are Dead, would not be more deceiving, than to propose Comfort, and Security to my self and Corporation, when Strangers are Admitted to possess and Enjoy by a Law, all that's Valuable in this Kingdom; for this Bill doth Enfranchise all Strangers that will Swear and Protest against *Papery* with the Liberties of every *English* Man, after the vast Expence of Treasure and *English* Blood it hath Cost this Kingdom in all Times and Ages of our Fore-fathers, to secure them to themselves and their Posterity.

Wherefore Mr. *Speaker* I must begg Pardon, if at this time I cannot sit silent, but express a Zealous concern, as well for the Kingdom in General, as for the Place I Represent in particular; and I am more moved thereunto, whilst I see so many Members sent here by their Country for the Conservation of the *English* Mans Liberties, so warm as to part with all to Strangers with one Vote.

The Argument of the Honourable Person near me, to render all the Care of our Fore-fathers of no Esteem amongst us, who are, or ought to be the Representatives of the Kingdom, was to prove, that this Age and Generation are Wise (he did not say Honester) than the former.

I remember a West Country Man many Years past, undertook to prove the same to me, and my Company beyond Sea, by declaring his
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Father was a Fool to him. I yeilded him that Point by Concluding both to be such, and yet our Fore-fathers might be Wise Men; I shall not at this time question the Wisdom of those who promote the Bill, or their Fathers. For my self I declare in behalf of the Wisdom and Honesty of our Predecessors, nor can I Assent to the yeilding up of the Liberties and Laws they derived unto us, only because some Gentlemen think better of themselves (and perhaps mistakenly) than of their Parents.

Sir, I was early Instructed in a Principle of deference to the Wisdom of our Ancestors, and at this time I tremble when I Reflect on the Correction given me by my Master, that I might not forget but Imitate and Defend in all times this Rule: *Let them only be accounted Good, Just, and Wise Men, who Regard and Defend the Statutes, Laws, Ordinances, and Liberties, which their Fore-Fathers Wisdom and Experience obtained for themselves and Posterity.* Now it is my Opinion Mr. Speaker, that if those Gentlemen who approve of this Bill, had not only been taught that Rule, but as well Corrected as my self, they would be of my Judgment, and I wish that they who depart from that Rule, and Sacrifice our English Liberties, to a Number of Mercenary Foreigners, may not meet with a much more Rigorous and Exemplary Chastisement from their Enraged and Ruined Countrey Men.

The Arguments used for the Bill are in substance these: *First, A want of Purchasers for our Lands. Second, Of Merchants. Third, Manufacturers, who can Work Cheaper than the English. Fourth, Husbandmen to Till the Ground.*

To all these I shall return short Answers, but if I deliberate not on them with that Advantage and Reason, as our Land Admirals can (no doubt) with great Ingenuity on Sea Politicks, I hope the House will Pardon me, for my Observations never cost the Kingdom such Expence of Money at Home, and Losses at Sea, as hath the Experience of those Honourable Persons in Sea Affairs.

First its Argued by some, that we want Purchasers for the Lands: This is a Melancholy Consideration, I therefore desire those Gentlemen who approve of this Bill, to tell me what it is hath brought us to this Condition, That the Landed Men of England are Reduced to so Low an Ebb, that they must Sell, and none left able to Buy, unless Forreigners are Naturalized, doth this prove our Fore-fathers wanted understanding; or doth it not rather conclude its occasioned by our want of theirs, and not following their Examples, who never

Taxed their Country to the Ruin both of themselves and their Posterity, nor did they Expend the Money of the Kingdom on such Allies as Ours: who as we have been informed by some of the *Privy Council*, are not in our interest, and will spare us none of their Men for our Pay, without great Pensions likewise for themselves. Can any Man hope to persuade me, that our Fore-fathers would have brought Foreign Soldiers into *England* and pay them, and Naturalize them likewise, and at the same time send the *English* Soldiers abroad to Fight in a strange Land, without their pay.

Let us but abate our Taxes, and after the Wise President of our Fathers, pay our own Sea Men and Soldiers at Home, and send the Forreigners Back. Then the Money will be found Circulating at Home, in such *English* Mens Hands, who may Buy the Lands that are to be Sold, without Naturalizing Strangers.

Secondly, Its said we want more Merchants. Whom may we thank for bringing so many to Poverty. but I shall forbear grating, and desire the Liberty to Consider in short how the Trade of *England* hath hitherto been carried on. Gentlemen have placed their younger Children to Merchants, their Masters observing their Honesty and diligence when they have gained some experience in the necessary parts of Trade, Generally send them abroad, to *Turkey*, all parts of the *Levant*, to *Spain*, *Portugal*, East and West *Indies*; and all parts where *England* holds any Considerable Commerce: there the young men are Employed by and Entrusted with the Stocks and Estates of their Masters and Friends, whereby all parties both the principals at home, and the Factors abroad are advantaged, and *England* enriched (for there in the end all Centers) and at last when they are satiated with gain, they return to their Native soil their Friends and Relations for ease and Enjoyment. making room for a younger Generation to succeed in their profitable Employments. Thus hitherto this Kingdom hath advanced in Riches, whilst Foreigners could not with success plant their Factories on us, through the advantage we had by our Laws; Let us but turn the Tables and Consider the Consequence: Suppose we pass this bill, and the *Dutch* (who no doubt will take the Oaths as this Bill directs, and protect against *Papery* and *Paganism*, and on occasion *Christianity* too, as at *Japan*) send their Servants and Factors hither, and we Naturalize them, and let the Capital stock which gets an Employ to these new made *Englishmen* belong to their Masters and friends, who never did or ever will live amongst us, will it not then follow that the profit will be theirs

thoies and not *Englands*, and will not the New made *English* (yet *Dutchmen* still) return to their Country and friends with their gain, as our People hitherto have done. We may observe by our Inland Trade, that its seldom they who make the Manufactories gain Estates, but those who employ their stocks in buying and selling what others make, and its the same with the Merchants, those that Export and Import are the gainers; the first maker very seldom, the Consumptioner never.

The Conclusion then of this Experiment must be this. That what hath hitherto been gain to *England* by *English* Merchants and Factors, will be turned to a Forreign Land, by the Forreign Merchants Naturalized, for their own good, not *Englands*.

But this is not all, for at once the Art of Navigation will be rendered useless. Whence then will be a Nursery for Sea Men? For Forreign Merchants will Naturalize Forreign Sea men; and when the Press-Masters find them, they will *Dutchen spraken, ya min heer*, and avoid the Service, but at the *Custom-House*, *Exchange*, and in all Corporations, they will be found as good *Englistmen* as any be of this House; from whence it followeth, that Trade will be only carried on by Forreign Merchants and Sea-men, and the *English* Sea men Condemned to our Men of War, and perhaps live there, as hitherto without their Pay, till another Million be owing them for Wages, and in the interim have this only consolation and reward for service done, and to be done, that their Wives and Children may be subsisted with shakels of the parish, whilst Forreign soldiers are maintained at home and abroad with their pay.

A third Argument for admitting *Forreigners*, is upon a supposed want we have of *Manufacturers*, especially such as will work cheaper than the *English*; In my Opinion this reasoning is extraordinary, and ought not to take air out of the House, least the Old *English* Spirit should exert it self in defence of its Liberties. For at this time when all provisions are become excessive dear by the great quantities exported to *Holland*, which puts the poor *English* Manufacturers on starving in most parts of *England*, for want of a full Employ to Enable them to support their Families, by their honest and painful Labour and Industry, shall an *English* Parliament let in strangers to under sell our Country, which they may easily do, whilst they live in *Garrers*, pay no Taxes, and are bound to no Duty? How shall we answer this to our Country, who sent us here? when by so doing, instead of making the Kingdom more populous,

we provide only for the subsistence of Forreigners, and put our Country men to the Choice of starving at home, or to turn soldiers, and be sent to *Flanders*, and starve there for want of their pay; for its well known that at this time, more commodities are made in *England* then can be consumed abroad, or at home, which makes the poor Manufacturers so miserable. All Country Gentlemen within this House, have for several Sessions laboured what they could to raise the price of the Provisions which their Lands produce, and some think it not great enough yet, and they would despise that man, who should endeavour to lower the Rates, by proposing a free Importation of *Irish* Cattle and Corn, tho he had no other design, than that Charitable and necessary one of relieving the poor; and yet these very Gentlemen are for this Bill, because they would have the labour of the poor brought to a lower advantage: In my Opinion this is a very unequal way of reasoning, that whilst we raise the price of the product of the Land, for the Gentlemen to live in greater state, at the same time our Consols are how to make the half starved Manufacturers that live by their daily labour, more and more miserable. What Opinion will the Common people of *England* have of this House, and the Gentlemen of the Kingdom, whom nothing can please, but what is made by Forreigners, or comes from abroad?

Our Gallies for a long time have been so nice, that nothing but a *French* Cook could please, nor could we persuade our selves that our cloathing was good unless from Head to Foot we were *A la Mode de France*; The Gentleman was not well served without a *Frenchman*, and the Lady's Commode could not sit right, if her fine *French* Woman did not put it on: Now on a sudden, the Change is as Violent in favour of the *Dutch*, who are great Courtiers, and the only raking people, and our *English* are a sort of Clumsy fisted people if compared with the Modish *Dutch* *Hans* and *Fro*, and in short the *Englishmen* are fit for nothing, but to be sent to *Flanders*, and there, either to fight, steal, or starve for want of pay. There is one thing *M. Speaker* which comes into my mind, with which I shall close this Consideration. What reason was there for blaming the Mayors, Aldermen, Common Councils, and other Governours of Corporations, for surrendering the Charters; tho they still retain the Rights for *Englishmen* only to come into new Charters, and at the same time hope to justify our proceedings, tho we throw up the Great Charter of our *English* Liberties to admit Strangers.

A fourth Preference for this Bill is, a want of Husbandmen to Till the Ground, I shall say little on this Head, but request the Honourable Person below me, to tell me of the *Ferry Thousand French*, which he counteth are come into *England*, How many does he know, that at this time follow the Plow tail? for its my firm Opinion, that not only the *French*, but any other Nation this Bill sh^d be let in upon us, will never transplant themselves for the benefit of going to Plow; they will contentedly leave the *English* the sole monopoly of that slavery.

Upon the whole *Sir*, its my Judgement, that should this Bill pass, it will bring us great Afflictions in this Nation, as over sell upon the *Egyptians*, and one of their Plagues we have at this time very severe upon us; I mean that of their Land bringing forth *Fruit* in abundance, even in the Chambers of their Kings: For there is no entering the Courts of *St. James* and *Whitehall*, the Pallaces of our Hereditary Kings, for the great Noise and Crowing of the *Frog-Turneps*.

Mr. Speaker, This Nation is a *Religious, Just, and Endors* Nation, who in some of their Fits and Zeal, have not only Quarrelled and fought for the same, but have murdered and Deposed *Kings, Nobles, Bishops, and Priests*, for the sake of their Religion and Liberties, which they pretended to prove from the Bible, we are the *Religious Representatives* of this *Religious People*, Let us therefore learn Instruction in this Case before us, from that good Book; where we may be informed, that Saint *Paul*, by being born Free of *Heathen Rome*, escaped a Whipping, and valued, and pleaded that Priviledge; and the Chief Captain of the *Romans* prides himself, that he, with a great Sum, had obtained that Freedom, and feared greatly when he had violated *St. Paul's* Liberty, only by binding of him, and, Shall we set at nought the Freedoms of the *English* Nation, who are a Religious Christian Kingdom, and part with the same to strangers, for nothing, unless the undoing of our own Country men, who sent Us here; but not on this Errand, Certainly we should follow the Example of the *Roman* Captain, and fear and tremble when we consider the Just Provocation we shall give to the Kingdom, who will expect that We Preserve, and not Destroy every *English* Man's Birth-right.

Sir, We may farther learn, from that Book, the Fate of the *Egyptians*, who experimented on the score of Charity, what it is a people may expect from admitting strangers into their Country and

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Councils; *Joseph* was a stranger sold a slave into *Egypt*, yet being taken into *Pharaoh's* Council, he, by Taxes, and other fine projects, brought the seven years plenty, God had blest the *Egyptians* with, into the Granaries of *Pharaoh*; but when Death came on the Land, and the people cryed to their King for Relief, they were sent to the stranger *Joseph*, who getteth from them, for that which was once their own, all their Money, their Cattle, their Lands; and last of all, their Persons into slavery; tho' at the same time, he did for o-therwise by his own Country men, for he plac'd them in the best of the Land; the Land of *Goshen*, and nourish'd them from the King's store. This Example should teach us to be wise in time, seeing all this was done by the Advice of one foreigner in the Privy Council; and what may that Country expect, where the Head, and many of the Council are Foreigners?

Sir, I perceive some Gentlemen are uneasy, perhaps I have of-fended them, in supposing they are Religious Representatives; or concluding that their Religion is to be proved from the Bible: If that be it which disturbs them, I beg their pardon, and request not to offend again on that Score; and will conclude all with this Motion, That the *Serjeant* be commanded to open the Doors, and let us first Kick the Bill out of the House, and then Foreigners out of the Kingdom.

FINIS.
